Production of Groundnut

*455. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average per hectare production of groundnut in India is far less than the average production in other countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the average per hectare production of the same in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the area, production and productivity of various oil seeds, including groundnut, two Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. National Oilseeds Development Project and Oil seeds Production Thrust Project are being implemented in major groundnut growing States. Under these projects financial assistance is being provided to the States for various components, including seeds, plant protection measures, demonstrations, supply of improved implements and sprinkler sets, application of sulphur and control of white grub, etc.

New policy against natural calamities

*456. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy had recently been framed for assistance to the areas prone to natural calamities by taking up long-term projects which would automatically help the affected persons and that it would be the district units which would be assessed for such assistance; and

(b) if so, what are its main features and what progress has it made during the worst drought of the century?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) Natural calamities with reference to agriculture include flood, cyclone and drought. Since flood and cyclone are short-run, they are tackled based on the situation. Whereas, drought is tackled on a long-term basis. The long-term measuers are being promoted through the appropriate schemes for mellowing the effect of drought.

The main features of the scheme are: —

(i) In-situ water harvesting

(ii) Run-off management through diversion drain, checkdams, percolation tanks, nala bunds etc.

(iii) Introduction of crops plantation and pastures development which can sustain the impact of drought.

Improvement in the working condition of Glass Factory Workers

457. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the working conditions of the workers of glass factories in the country; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The provisions regarding safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories are contained in the Factories Act, 1948. The State Government and the Union Territory Administrations frame Rules under the Act and are responsible for enforcement of the statutory provisions. The Central Government have circulated model rules concerning safety and health of workers in glass factories and a large number of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have adopted these model rules.

Consensus on reservation for other backward classes

*458. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on the

13th November, 1987 and state the present position with regarding to evolving a national consensus on the issue of reservations for Other Backward Classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : The Government continues to be of the view that *status quo* should be maintained till a consensus is evolved.

Recruitment of Indian Doctors by Foreign Governments

*459. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign Governments are recruiting Indian doctors and other para-medical personnel through private agencies in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that steps have been taken by the Saudi Arabian Government to stop foreign recruiting agencies from recruiting such personnel from their countries; if so, what steps are being taken by Government to stop foreign countries from recruiting Indian personnel through private agencies;

(c) what are the names of the countries for which Indian doctors and para-medical personnel have been recruited and the number of personnel, in each category, appointed in such countries as on 31st December, 1987; and

(d) whether any bilateral agreements have been signed with all foreign Governments in this regard; if so, the names of the countries with whom such agreements have been made as on 29th February, 1988 and the action Government propose to initiate with the remaining countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not known if Saudi Arabian authorities have imposed any restrictions on recruitment of para-medical staff through private recruiting agencies from their country. The Government of India does not contemplate any such restrictions.

(c) Doctors emigrating abroad are not covered by the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. Nurses having recognised qualifications have also been exempted from the provisions of the Emigration Act, since August 1986. The number of paramedics given Emigration clearance up to the end of 1987 is 6633.

(d) No bilateral agreement has been signed so far as recruitment of medical personnel on Government to Government basis is concerned.

Shortfall of foodgrains and oilseeds in Gujarat

*460. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated shortfall of various foodgrains and oilseeds in Gujarat this year on account of the drought and to what extent that State have the deficit of wheat, rice bajra, jowar and groundnuts; and

(b) what action Government have taken to meet this deficit with details thereof including the terms on which these commodities are proposed to be supplied to the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As per tentative estimates, the shortfall in production of foodgrains and oilseeds in Gujarat in the year 1987-88 is likely to be of the order of 15 to 17 lakh tonnes and 14 lakh tonnes respectively, as compared to the preceding year.

(b) The allocation of foodgrains to Gujarat has been increased to 11.65 lakh tonnes in 1987-88 as compared to 9.00 lakh tonnes in the preceding year under the public distribution system. In addition, 3 lakh tonnes of wheat was allocated to the State for drought relief and 6300 tonnes for drought nutrition programme